AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification beginning at line 16, page 2, as reflected in the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

However, authentication credentials for a computer network may be compromised in a number of ways, including brute force attacks, monitoring network traffic, and gaining access to third-party systems that store authentication credentials. In a brute force attack, a large number of potential authentication credentials, perhaps all possible combinations, are submitted to a computer network. For example, a four-digit PIN (personal identification number) could be discovered by submitting the numbers from 0000 to 9999. Although submitting ten thousand numbers may seem like a significant task, for computers the imposition is minimal at best.

Please amend the specification beginning at line 19, page 11, as reflected in the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

Embodiments within the scope of the present invention also include computer-readable media for carrying or having computer-executable instructions or data structures stored thereon. Such computer-readable media can be any available media which can be accessed by a general purpose or special purpose computer. By way of example, and not limitation, such computer-readable media can comprise RAM (random access memory), ROM (read-only memory), EEPROM (electrically erasable programmable read-only memory), CD-ROM (compact disk read-only memory) or other optical disk storage, magnetic disk storage or other magnetic storage devices, or any other medium which can be used to carry or store desired program code means in the form of computer-executable instructions or data structures and which can be accessed by a general purpose or special purpose computer. When information is transferred or provided over a network or another communications connection (either hardwired, wireless, or a combination of hardwired or wireless) to a computer, the computer properly views the connection as a computer-readable medium. Thus, any such a connection is properly termed a computer-readable medium. Combinations of the above should also be included within the scope of computer-readable media. Computer-executable instructions comprise, for example, instructions and data which cause a general purpose computer, special purpose computer, or special purpose processing device to perform a certain function or group of functions.

Please amend the specification beginning at line 8, page 13, through line 23, page 15, as reflected in the following marked-up paragraphs:

With reference to Figure 1, an exemplary system for implementing the invention includes a general purpose computing device in the form of a conventional computer ~~20~~120, including a processing unit ~~21~~121, a system memory ~~22~~122, and a system bus ~~23~~123 that couples various system components including the system memory ~~22~~122 to the processing unit ~~21~~124. The system bus ~~23~~123 may be any of several types of bus structures including a memory bus or memory controller, a peripheral bus, and a local bus using any of a variety of bus architectures. The system memory includes read only memory (ROM) ~~24~~124 and random access memory (RAM) ~~25~~125. A basic input/output system (BIOS) ~~26~~126, containing the basic routines that help transfer information between elements within the computer ~~20~~120, such as during start-up, may be stored in ROM ~~24~~124.

The computer ~~20~~120 may also include a magnetic hard disk drive ~~27~~127 for reading from and writing to a magnetic hard disk ~~39~~139, a magnetic disk drive ~~28~~128 for reading from or writing to a removable magnetic disk ~~29~~129, and an optical disk drive ~~30~~130 for reading from or writing to removable optical disk ~~131~~131 such as a CD-ROM or other optical media. The magnetic hard disk drive ~~27~~127, magnetic disk drive ~~28~~128, and optical disk drive ~~30~~130 are connected to the system bus ~~23~~123 by a hard disk drive interface ~~32~~132, a magnetic disk drive-interface ~~33~~133, and an optical drive interface ~~34~~134, respectively. The drives and their associated computer-readable media provide nonvolatile storage of computer-executable instructions, data structures, program modules and other data for the computer ~~20~~120. Although the exemplary environment described herein employs a magnetic hard disk ~~39~~139, a removable magnetic disk ~~29~~129 and a removable optical disk ~~31~~131, other types of computer readable media for storing data can be used, including magnetic cassettes, flash memory cards, digital video disks, Bernoulli cartridges, RAMs, ROMs, and the like.

Program code means comprising one or more program modules may be stored on the hard disk ~~39~~139, magnetic disk ~~29~~129, optical disk ~~31~~131, ROM ~~24~~124 or RAM ~~25~~125, including an operating system ~~35~~135, one or more application programs ~~36~~136, other program modules ~~37~~137, and program data ~~38~~138. A user may enter commands and information into the computer ~~20~~120 through keyboard ~~40~~140, pointing device ~~42~~142, or other input devices (not shown), such as a microphone, joy stick, game pad, satellite dish, scanner, or the like. These and other input devices are often connected to the processing unit ~~21~~121 through a serial port interface ~~46~~146 coupled to system bus ~~23~~123. Alternatively, the input devices may be connected by other interfaces, such as a parallel port, a game port or a universal serial bus (USB). A monitor ~~47~~147 or another display device is also connected to system bus ~~23~~123 via an interface,

such as video adapter 48148. In addition to the monitor, personal computers typically include other peripheral output devices (not shown), such as speakers and printers.

The computer 20-120 may operate in a networked environment using logical connections to one or more remote computers, such as remote computers 49a-149a and 49b149b. Remote computers 149a 49a and 149b 49b may each be another personal computer (PC), a server, a router, a network PC, a peer device or other common network node, and typically include many or all of the elements described above relative to the computer 20120, although only memory storage devices 50a-150a and 50b-150b and their associated application programs 36a 136a and 36b-136b have been illustrated in Figure 1. The logical connections depicted in Figure 1 include a local area network (LAN) 51-151 and a wide area network (WAN) 52-152 that are presented here by way of example and not limitation. Such networking environments are commonplace in office-wide or enterprise-wide computer networks, intranets and the Internet.

When used in a LAN networking environment, the computer 20-120 is connected to the local network 51-151 through a network interface or adapter 53153. When used in a WAN networking environment, the computer 20-120 may include a modem 54154, a wireless link, or other means for establishing communications over the wide area network 52152, such as the Internet. The modem 54154, which may be internal or external, is connected to the system bus 23-123 via the serial port interface 46146. In a networked environment, program modules depicted relative to the computer 20120, or portions thereof, may be stored in the remote memory storage device. It will be appreciated that the network connections shown are exemplary and other means of establishing communications over wide area network 52-152 may be used.